



## Hydroides elegans

### Fouling Serpulid worm

#### Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
  - Extremely pervasive fouling; outcompetes native species; dramatic alteration of ecosystem
  - An example of this is an oyster fishery in Japan, where *H. elegans* is said to have caused the death of 60% of stocks, causing a loss of 300 million Yen
  - The fouling habit of this species also causes problems for seawater piping systems
2. Invasive Potential
  - Larvae persist in plankton allowing wider distribution through waves and currents
  - Adults also found adhering to certain seaweeds, providing potential for additional distribution
3. Geographic Extent
  - Regionally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
  - No means of eradication in marine environment
  - Fouling control options include chemical, mechanical, physical

#### Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Unknown, but first described from Sydney Harbor
2. Introduced: Hawai'i, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico
3. Habitats
  - Found sublitorally in tropical and subtropical waters around the world
  - Marine, fouling communities

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Natural spread
3. Stocking in open water

#### Non-Native Locations

1. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico
2. 64- Eastern Caribbean
3. 152- Hawaiian Islands

#### Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in ecology and the environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>